



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

ALASKA DIVISION

709 West Ninth Street, Room 851

P.O. Box 21648

Juneau, Alaska 99802

907-586-7418 | 907-586-7420 FAX

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

REGION X

915 2nd Avenue, Suite 3142

Seattle, WA 98174-1002

206-220-7954 | 206-220-7959 FAX

DEC 30 2003

Mr. Mike Barton, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Transportation
and Public Facilities
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7898

Dear Mr. Barton:

Your December 22, 2003, letter requested joint federal approval of Amendment #1 to the FY 2004-2006 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). This amendment added the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) FY 2004 – 2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the STIP. We have reviewed this information and supplemental documentation submitted by AMATS on December 30, 2003.

The AMATS, the Anchorage Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), prepared a conformity determination for the Anchorage carbon monoxide (CO) nonattainment area consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency transportation conformity rule. Based on our review of the MPO's conformity analysis for the Anchorage CO nonattainment area, we find that the AMATS TIP conforms to the State Implementation Plan's purpose of reducing the severity and number of violations to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and ensuring expeditious attainment of the standards. We have communicated this conformity determination to AMATS under separate cover (see attached). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been provided an opportunity to comment on this U.S. Department of Transportation conformity determination prior to its approval.

Based on our review of the subject STIP amendment, we conclude that the AMATS TIP:

- Was approved by the MPO and Governor's designee and has been included without modification by reference in the STIP as amended;
- Contains all projects within the Anchorage metropolitan planning area;
- Covers a period of not less than 3 years and includes a priority list of projects to be carried out in the first three years;
- Was developed consistent with the public involvement procedures as published and adopted;


- Is financially constrained by year and includes a financial plan that demonstrates that all projects can be implemented using current revenue sources;
- Contains only projects that are consistent with the transportation plans;
- Contains all regionally significant transportation projects;
- Contains all transportation projects proposed for funding under Title 23, U.S.C., (including Federal Lands Highway projects) and Federal Transit Laws, as amended;
- Contains only transportation projects found to conform to the requirements contained in 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93.

Therefore, we find that the AMATS TIP is based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation process carried on by the State, MPO and transit operator in accordance with the provision of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303.

The subject STIP amendment submitting the AMATS FY 2004-2006 TIP is approved. Since the subject document also addresses the same program requirements 23 U.S.C. 105, our joint approval also constitutes 23 U.S.C. 105 program approval.

Sincerely,



 David C. Miller
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration



R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

cc: Jeff Ottesen, ADOT&PF
Lance Wilbur, AICP, AMATS
Craig Lyon, AMATS
Mike Scott, ADOT&PF

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

3132 CHANNEL DRIVE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-7898

TEXT: (907) 465-3652
FAX: (907) 586-8365
PHONE: (907) 465-3900

December 22, 2003

Mr. David Miller
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
P.O. Box 1648
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1648

Mr. Rick F. Krochalis
Region X Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
9150 Second Ave, No. 3142
Seattle, Washington 98174

Attn: Peter Serrano
Transportation Planner

Attn: Jennifer Bowman
Community Planner

Re: FY 2004-2006 STIP Amendment #1

Enclosed for your review and approval is an amendment to the FY 2004-2006 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The amendment consists of the addition to the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) approved by the AMATS Policy Committee on December 19, 2003. In addition to the STIP amendment, we request your review and approval of the air quality conformity determination (with the TIP as an attachment). The air quality conformity determination was approved by the AMATS Policy Committee December 19, 2003.

The TIP is a three-year program of Anchorage transportation projects. The TIP is financially constrained in each of the three years.

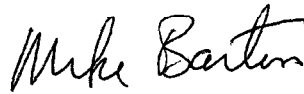
This STIP amendment was developed in accordance with US Code Title 23 –Section 135 and the State Planning Regulations. Projects that are in the air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas are in conformity with that State Implementation Plan for air quality.

The Metropolitan TIP has been approved by me, the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, as the statutory designee for transportation planning. However, the AMATS TIP does not comply with state law, AS 19.15.025

Section 1(c) in the 2005-2006 years, and I have asked that needed adjustments be made by October 1, 2004.

If you have questions, please call Jeff Ottesen at (907) 465-2070. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Barton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Barton,
Commissioner

Enclosures

cc: Jeff Ottesen, Director, Division of Planning, DOT&PF
Michael J. Scott, Chairman, AMATS Policy Committee
Wayne Elson, Environmental Protection Specialist, EPA
Craig Lyon, AICP, AMATS Coordinator, MOA


MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner

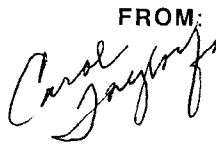
TO: Mike Barton
Commissioner

DATE: December 22, 2003

THRU: John MacKinnon 
Deputy Commissioner of
Highways & Public Facilities

TELEPHONE NO: 465-3901
TEXT TELEPHONE: 465-3652

FAX NUMBER: 586-8365

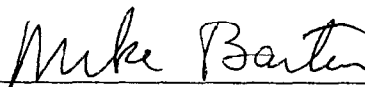
FROM: Jeff Ottesen, Director
Division of Program Development


SUBJECT: AMATS TIP
Recommended Approval

The AMATS (Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions) TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) was approved December 22, 2003 by the AMATS Policy.

We find that the TIP has met all requirements of US Code Title 23 – Section 134 for Metropolitan Planning Organizations and is financially constrained by the allocations made in the approved 2004-2006 STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program). However, we find the TIP does not comply with state statute AS19.15.025 Section 1(c). In 2005 and 2006 after the statute is effective, AMATS still proposes to spend more than 10% of its program for transportation enhancements. We recommend that AMATS submit the needed adjustments in 2005 and 2006 by October 1, 2004.

Your approval of the TIP is recommended and required as the statutory designee for all state transportation planning matters.


Approved subject to AMATS adjustments to
comply with AS19.15.025 Section 1(c)
by October 1, 2004.
Mike Barton, Commissioner

Date 12-22-03